What Petroleum Is.

The casual visitor to the Pennsylvania oil region, as he views the greasy fluid gushing from its rich reservoirs, two sand feet below the surface, finds himself involuntarily asking the primal question, Where does it come from, and how and where was it formed? A puzzling question, surely, and, if propounded to any competent and thorough geologist, would only elicit a shake of the head, and the brief reply that he didn't know. But however careful the scientific man may be about advancing a theory that the discoveries of to-morrow may knock higher than a kite, the average Yankee never allows a conundrum of this kind to be propounded to him without making one or more at-tempts at guessing it. The difficult question of the origin of petroleum has not seemed to his prolific mind too big to be grappled with, and at present two popular theories exist in regard to this interesting subject, each of which has its strenuous advocotes.

The first of these theories holds that the rock in which the oil is now found is the parent rock in which it originated. The Pennsylvania oil rocks are a series of sand rocks of varying thickness, scat-tered somewhat irregularly over the northwestern part of the State, and prolific in oil at depths below the surface varying from five hundred to two thousand feet. Originally they were deposited by the action of water, either as long stretches of sea-beach or immense sand-bars formed by eddying and whirling currents. The advocates of the parent-rock theory maintain that along with this sand was deposited organic vegetable or animal matter, which, by the chemical action of the succeeding ages, has been transformed into oil and gas, and kept stored in these hermetically-sealed reservoirs until the searching drill of the enterprising oil-operator should penetrate its hidden chambers and bring it forth to light an inquiring and busy world.

In confirmation of this theory its advocates point to the coal deposits, which are now generally considered to have originated from a vast deposit of vegetable matter which grew and decomposed for ages, and then, by the combined action of heat and enormous pressure, were packed away in solid masses to provide the future fuel for the world. A chemical analysis of the two articles, coal and petroleum, discloses the fact that they contain nearly the same elemental ingredients, in slightly different proportions, perhaps, but practically the same, the only real difference consisting in the fact that one is now a solid and the other a fluid. As the oil is found at a distance of from one thousand to two thousand feet below the prolific coal measures, and, if deposited along with the sand rock in which it is now found, must be many ages older than the coal deposits, it is argued that the immensely longer period since its original deposit, and the higher tem-perature to which it is subjected by its easily account for the chemical action necessary to make it a fluid instead of a solid, as in the case of coal.

The second and more generally accepted theory is that the petroleum is formed by the constant distillation of pipes, was depressing. gas from the underlying carbonaceous shales of the Silurian period, which in the Pennsylvania oil region are sup-posed to lie at a sufficient depth to be subjected to a high temperature and to be constantly generating gases. If this theory is accepted, the conditions necessary for the formation of petroleum deposits are three-fold. First, a geological horizon deep enough below the surface to generate gases by the operations of internal heat; second, a horizon of proper temperature for the purposes of condensation, and third, a reservoir for storing the condensed petroleum. The advocates of this theory claim that these lower shales lie at the proper depth to fill the first of these conditions, and that the gas thus generated, being very light and of a peculiarly penetrating nature, arises through the crevices and fissures of the overlying rocks until it reaches the horizon of condensation, which they claim, according to developments made by the drill, varies in distance from five hundred to two thousand feet below the surface. The third condition is fulfilled according to this theory by these sand rocks, which, lying within the horizon ot condensation and being of a porous nature, hold the condensed petroleum as a sponge holds water. These rocks are hermetically sealed at the top by an impervious shell, which prevents the lighter portions of the oil and gas from escaping to the surface until this shell is penetrated by the oil-operator's drill, when it gushes forth with astonishing force. If this theory is correct, then in all probability the process of formation is constantly in operation, though proceeding at a very slow rate, the immense

accretion of untold ages. The advocates of this theory fortify themselves by the statement that the series of Devonian rocks in which the oil deposits are now found extend over a great deal of territory in which the drill fails to find oil, and that if the theory of original deposit of the petroleum-producing matter along with these same deposits were true then the oil should be found wherever the rock is found. On the contrary, they claim the rock may exist where there are no underlying shales to produce the petroleum gases, or the overlying strata may be upheaved to such an extent that the gases may escape to the surface through vertical fissures and thus mingle with the atmosphere and be lost. In proof of this they cite the fact that no oil has been discovered eastward of the line which marks the beginning of the Allegheny upheaval, and that the vertical fissures caused by this upheaval have also cite in support of this theory the further fact that no oil has been discovered at a depth exceeding five hundred feet below sea level, although the in fact, so prepared as to act like a to read a book.—Elizabeth Cummings, drill has penetrated far greater depths seton. This, indeed, might do good, in Christian Union. in many instances and succeeded in tapping the petroleum gases. They a few blisters behind the ears would be argue from this that if the gases are better. It is nonsense to suppose the found at great depths, but no oil, then it follows that oil is the product of condensation, which can only take place where a sufficiently low temperature ex- the result attributed to them is obtained

quiry is full of interest to the inquisitive mind, and we simply present to the readers of The Times these two popular theories for what they are worth, without comment or expressed opinion. -Philadelphia Times.

Heat and Cold.

In the Nineteenth Century Prof. Frankland gives interesting results of investigations conducted by him into the causes and extent of the difference in the climates of town and country. He lays much stress upon the influence of the color of the surroundings in modifying the cold of the air. As everybody knows, there is a great differ-ence in the nature of the heat from an open fire and the heat from a stove. The heat from a fire passes through the air of the room without warming it, and is then reflected back from the walls and furniture. A stove, on the contrary, warms the air directly by contact. Hence it is that a draft is unendurable in a room heated by an open fire, because it is a stream of cold air that is brought in contact with the body, whereas in a stove-heated room the moving air is warm and the draft is not felt. Now, outdoor climate is made up of these two kinds of heat, and may be called sun-warmth; the other resembles the heat from a stove, and is properly described as air-warmth. The winter-warmth as we get it is that resembling the warmth from an open fire; the winter-warmth in a snowless country is similar to that derived from stove-The greater the proportion of the sun-heat that is absorbed by the surround

ings, the less is the portion reflected into the air, and the lower is the temperature of the air. The power to absorb heat depends almost entirely upon the color of the object. Prof. Frankland gives notes of experiments conducted by himself with the object of showing the heat-absorptive powers of various substances. From observations taken at the same place and at the same moment he found that the amount of sun-heat reflected by different objects differed extremely. Thus, at the same moment when white paper and white linen reflected 116 degrees Fahrenheit of heat, black silk and black merino reflected 84 degrees and 80 degrees respectively. At the same time a thermometer held above snow marked 111 degrees, and one held above green grass marked 88 degrees, above parched grass 95 degrees, and above gray rock 88 degrees. The author gives this instance: At Bellagio, near the sea-level, he found a sun-warmth of 72 degrees most oppressive, while on the summit of the Diavolezza Pass, though the sun-warmth was 107 degrees, he experienced a sensation of delicious coolness. At Bellagio, however, the real temperature of the air was 83 degrees, while on the Diavolezza the air-warmth was only 43 degrees. This great difference between the sun-wurmth and the air-warmth at the two places arose from the fact that at the latter place he was getting reflected heat from the snow, greater depth below the surface, may while at Bellagio the dark soil was abwas, like that of a fire or of a Canadian | the pasture by increasing the quantity winter, exhilerating and bracing; the air-warmth, like that of a stove or steam-

The author then goes on to apply these lessons to practice. People who live in countries where at any time of the year heat is deficient should build a wall twenty or thirty feet high on the north, east and west sides of the grounds, whitewashing the inner face of the wall so as to reflect the heat. If on the northern shore of a body of water, the house should be in such a position that the sun can be seen from sunset to sun-Yellow sand or gravel reflect heat very well. With these conditions, powerful sun-warmth and a bracing air might be secured. If we want the air of our streets to be warmer, all we have to do is to whiten the houses. Of course it follows that if we want cool streets we must darken our houses; and the question arises whether the semi-annual blackening and whitening of all the houses should not be made compulsory upon the conscript fathers of all

reputed health resorts. Prof. Frankland says that practically the color of a house makes no difference to its inside temperature, except with respect to the roof, the color of which makes a very great difference. In bright sunshine slates become so hot that the hand can scarcely be tinue the story by telling me that the borne even on their outside surfaces. Whiten the same slates, and the inside remains cool. As to internal coloring, the author says that the tints of wallpapers and furniture do not cause gained if they thought more about livmuch difference in the amount of fireheat received and radiated. We regret having to make a statement so favorable | what we accumulate or possess. Even as this to the somber wall-papers now knowledge may be so used that it is deposits lately discovered being the slow in vogue. It is not to be doubted, merely an ornament, which keeps up a though, that dark wall-papers do absorb, and so waste light, if they do refleet as much heat as white papers; and we trust their reign will be short .-Toronto Globe.

Ear-rings and Eyesight. A great deal has been written on the subject of "boring the ears for the sake of the eyes," says the London Lancet. It is always easy to find excuses for any practice which ministers to vanity. That the counter irritation set up by boring the ear and wearing a ring may, during the few weeks following the operation, have some effect on the eyes, supposing these organs to be the seat of any low form of inflammation, is just columns "for the ladies," printed in possible; but that permanent good some of our papers, and which tell with should be done by wearing rings in the more sarcastic emphasis than any words ears after they have ceased to irritate is of mine how some women choose to the recourse to this device would, thereto allow the healing process to be dedipped in some irritating applicationbut in such a case probably recourse to wearing of ear-rings can be of any service to the eyes unless they irritate, and if they do irritate, the process by which ists, and this is to be found only within is circuitous, and from a surgical point the limits above described. The in- of view awkward in the extreme.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

-Watercress Salad: Carefully pick over, wash and drain a quart of watercresses; dress them with a tablespoonful of vinegar, three of salad oil, a salt-spoonful of salt and quarter saltspoontul of pepper.

-A successful chicken raiser says that he always feeds his hens among his currants, and the leaves are consequently always free from worms, and other bushes not thus treated near by were entirely stripped of their foliage.

-Corn Pudding: Twelve ears of corn, four thoroughly beaten eggs, one quart of milk, three tablespoonfuls of sugar and salt to taste. Grate the corn, add the other ingredients and pour into a pudding dish. Bake slowly.

-Potatoes sliced thick are not Saratogas though generally so called. The true chips are as thin as paper and curl up when fried. They are used cold as well as hot, and may be prepared before wanted and kept a considerable time. It is necessary to have clean fresh lard and potatoes of good quality to get Saratoga chips of good color and proper crispness. They should be put in before the lard gets very hot, have time to dry out in it, and when yellow should be drained in a colander, set in a pan and salt sprinkled over .- Chicago

-How to Treat Bites and Stings: Apply instantly, with a soft rag, most freely, spirits of hartshorn. The venom of stings being an acid the alkali nullifies it. Fresh wood ashes, moistened with water, and made into a poultice, frequently renewed, is an excellent substitute, or soda or salaratus, all being alkalies. To be on the safe side in the case of snake or mad-dog bites, drink brandy, whisky, rum, or other spirits as free as water, a teacupful or a pint or more, according to the aggravation of the circumstances. -Journal of Health.

-The strawberries consumed in Paris come mostly from Brittany, and the largest market gardens are near Brest, one commune having upward of 500 acres of strawberry plants. It is estimated that this place alone produces 3150 tons of the berry, of which twothirds are sent to Paris. The crop is, in a fairly good year, about six tons to the acre, and this is equivalent to an income of about \$750 per acre. The picking of the strawberries begins about the 20th of May, and lasts throughout the month of June, when the variety of strawberry known as the Chile plant—imported from South America in 1715—comes in and lasts until the end of July.

-When cows gnaw rotten wood, old bones, etc., it is an indication that they are not gettin phosphates enough. phosphates, and in time pastures become so exhausted of this material that the grass produced does not satisfy the cows. There are two remedies: First, feed small quantities of bone meal to the cows twice a week; second, spread on the pastures 500 pounds of ground bone to the acre—this is much the best remedy, because it greatly improves as well as the quality of grass, and it is the most natural way to supply the wants of the cow .-- Mussachusetts Ploughman.

Woman's Work. I am convinced that at least one

quarter of the work performed by

women is unnecessary, and that the world would get on quite as well without it. It is like the ottoman cover I once saw a lady working. She was all bent up, and putting her eyes out counrise reflected in the water; then it will ing stitches. "I don't get any time get heat reflected therefrom, not otherwise. The soil should be light colored. she picked up some beads on a needle. "You must have a great deal of leisure." And yet she had spent more time embroidering a ridiculous dog on a piece of broadcloth than I had spent with my books in a year, and when the work was done she covered it up with a lace tidy and put it in a dark corner where the sun would not fade it, and threatened to cut off the children's ears if they ever sat upon it. It did not have the poor merit of being economical, for the price of the materials would have bought enough handsome damask for two covers. A friend of mine tells of seeing a squaw seat herself by the town pump, unroll a bundle of calico. cut out a dress, make it, put it on and walk off, all in about two hours. I have always regretted that he did not consquaw spent her abundant leisure beautifully. I would not have women reduce their sewing to quite so simple a performance, but a good deal would be ing and less about its accidents. The transcendent fact is what we are, not twinkling about the mind, like bright | COR jewels in pretty ears, and is only a possession and not a part of ourselves. To fill time, to pass it busily, is not to use it. Labor in itself is not worthy. The meanest work that makes home a love, ly sacred place is consecrated, and fit for the hands of a queen; but delicate work that ministers to no human need, even if it has artistic merit to recommend it, if it consumes the hours a woman ought to use training her mind to think, and her eyes to see, and mak- RYI ing her brains something more than a mere filling for her skull, is but busy idleness, and a waste of time. I hope the day will come when every woman who can read will be ashamed of the inconceivable. The test for motive in spend their leisure. Surely if they have SHE rendered the formation of petroleum de-posits impossible in that locality. They time to follow intricate directions for cents a yard, and for crotcheting all layed, say, by wearing a rough ring sorts of flummediddles, they may, if BY they will, find a few moments in which | POI

> -"Is he honest?" inquired a banker of a friend who recommended a man for the position of janitor. "Honest!"

-Lewiston, Pa, has a lad nearly twenty years of age who has never spoken a word to his father. He seems to be possessed of a natural antipathy to so doing, and yet says that should he ever be prompted to address the old man he shall speak freely. A quarrel which the parents had before his birth is said to be responsible for the strange state of affairs, the mother at that time having not spoken to her husband for a full year .- Philadelphia Record.

The Law of Kindness.

It would be a blessing and a kindness to ht would be a blessing and a kindness to poor, weak, nervous, debilitated suffering humanity, if druggists would stop selling the many vile purgative pills and cathartic compounds advertised for the cure of liver complaint. Although they afford temporary relief, they weaken the digestive organs and compel a continued and increasing use of the same. Sufferers from dyspepsia and liver complaint do not need a cathartic but should use some true medicinal tonic that will strengthen the digestive organs and heal the diseased tissues of the stomach, liver and bowels. A preparation of Yellow Dock, Sar-saparilla, Iron, Celery, Buchu and Calisaya has proven very efficacious as a permanent strengthener of the digestive organs. These ingredients all enter into the composition of Dr. Guysott's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla, a remedy highly recommended as a general health renewer

NEXT we shall have a coat-tail flirtation code. Having the tails covered with mud will mean: "I don't like her father."—Boston

MR. CHARLEY B. CHAMBERS, of Xenia, O., writes: "I had many ailments. All the organs of my body were in a weakened state -lungs, liver, kidneys, heart, nerves, etc. doctored for this and then for that. I tried bitters, they failed. Dr. Guysott's Yellow Dock and Sarsaparilla helped me from the start. I am now as strong and healthy as when I was a boy."

WHEN the schoolmaster threatened to tan Johnny, the urchin reminded him that a "soft tan, sir, turneth away wrath."-Our

Personal! THE VOLTAIC BELT Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Dye's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belts and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afkindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address as above. N. B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty day's trial is allowed.

WHEN a young lady refuses a marriage proposal, it is a case of sleight of hand.

No family Dyes were ever so popular as the Diamond Dyes. They never fail. The Black is far superior to logwood. The other colors are brilliant.

THE Boston Herald says: "After Oscar Wilde, Tug Wilson." If that is so, Oscar had better run.—Lowell Courier.

THE sport of lassooing the wicked and elusive pun is not particularly a summer sport. You think you have a real fat little pun corralled and are just about to slip your stylographic loop around it and serve it up to your readers, when lo and behold, it dodges Milch cows rapidly exhaust land of that has been on exhibition for years turns up in its place. It is time to quit the hunt .- New Haven Register.

"Women Never Think."

If the crabbed old bachelor who uttered this sentiment could but witness the intense thought, deep study and thorough investigation of women in determining the best medi-cines to keep their families well, and would note their sagacity and wisdom in selecting Hop Bitters as the best, and demonstrating it by keeping their families in perpetual health, at a mere nominal expense, he would be forced to acknowledge that such sentiments are baseless and false. - Picayune.

THERE are those who think time is out of joint because it cannot turn and go backward. -N. O. Picayune.

"A Drop of Joy in Every Word." DR. R. V. PIERCE, Buffalo, N. Y.: Three months ago I was broken out with large ulcers and sores on my body, limbs an I face. I pro-cured your "Golden Medical Discovery" and "Purgative Pellets" and have t ken six bot-

tles, and to-day I am in good heaith, all those ugly ulcers having healed and left my skin in a natural, healthy condition. I thought at one time that I could not be cured. Although I can but poorly express my gratitude to you, yet there is a drop of joy in every word I write. Yours truly, JAMES O. BELLIS, Flemington, N.J. "Discovery" sold by druggists.

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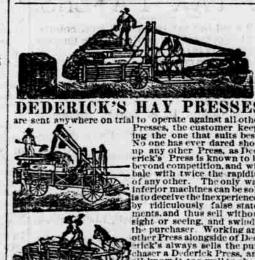
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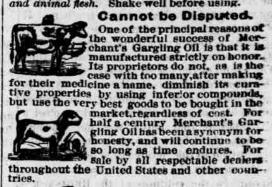
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